



The Counterdrug

Observer

THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 2009

MAJOR GENERAL DEERING HONORS COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

Maj. Gen. Myles L. Deering, the adjutant general for Oklahoma, formally recognized the Soldiers and Airman of the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force during a recent awards ceremony. The General praised the efforts of the Counterdrug team for the outstanding support they have provided agencies and community-based organizations. Deering presented the Governor's Commendation to Soldiers and Airman with 10 years or more of task force service.



Above: Major General Deering awards Task Force Members



The Governor's Commendation reads:

"Governor's Commendation is hereby presented for your many unselfish, outstanding acts to reduce the demand for drugs and drug-related violence. The state of Oklahoma holds you in the highest esteem and takes great pride in honoring you as a citizen-Soldier working for the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, signed Brad Henry Governor of Oklahoma"

Deering went on to present military awards to Staff Sgt. Mark Reynolds, Sgt. First Class Robert Carter and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Montgomery.

UH-72 "LAKOTA": HIGH TECH HELICOPTER COMING SOON

In September, the Texas National Guard Counterdrug Task Force flew a UH-72 "Lakota" to Oklahoma. Senior leaders were given orientation flights in the advanced helicopter.



The UH-72 "Lakota" is the newest helicopter in the Army. It is faster, more powerful and can carry more than 5 personnel. Oklahoma will receive four of the UH-72's in 2013.

COUNTERDRUG INTEL OPERATIONS

BANNER YEAR FOR INTEL SECTION

"People have no idea how important your services are to DEA. We could not do our job without you" praised Mr. James Akagi. Mr. Akagi is the Special Agent in Charge of the DEA office in Oklahoma City.

Intelligence operations is a vital program of the Task Force. Oklahoma National Guard intel analysts provide critical information that enables agencies to hunt down

2009 Statistics

Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force Accomplishments

Supported more than 12 agencies
715 arrests
\$56,400,000 of Marijuana
\$2,100,000 of Cocaine
\$1,100,000 of Methamphetamine
\$67,000 of Ecstasy
\$623,000 of Heroin
\$6,100,000 of Currency seized

the most elusive drug felons. The Task Force provides analyst support to the Oklahoma City Police, Norman Police, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. There are even intel analysts

working in the DEA offices located in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Intel analysts support agencies by conducting specialized criminal history reports, link analysis, phone analysis and GPS tracking.

Analysts use high tech military software in order to "grow a case". The I2 Analyst Software provides critical link analysis in order to identify persons of interest. Similar software was used to track down Saddam Hussein. The analysts now use this software to assist agencies fighting the war on drugs.

Mr. Akagi, sums up the intelligence support by saying *"If it were not for the National Guard, we could not do what we do. We would require a host of additional manpower and software. Bottom line, we are able to keep agents in the field tracking down drug dealers. Your services are invaluable to our operation"*.

Thanks to the direct efforts of the intel analysts, 2009 was a banner year for the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. More drugs, currency and arrests have been made in 2009 then ever before.

The Counterdrug Intelligence program is making a difference at DEA and in Oklahoma!



Above: Mr. James Akagi from the DEA praises the Guard's intel analysts

CULTIVATED MARIJUANA LINKED TO CARTELS

Cultivated marijuana is BACK and DANGEROUS!!!

During the summer of 2009, the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force along with counter-narcotic agents from around the state discovered a resurgence of cultivated marijuana.

In June, two task force Soldiers spotted a 3,000 plant field near Avant. During the eradication of this patch another field of approximately 5,000 plants was spotted by another task force pilot.

Task force pilots continued to locate "record breaking" fields across eastern Oklahoma. In the Kiamichi Mountains, the task force uncovered **\$24 Million** worth of cultivated marijuana (30,000 plants) and assisted in the apprehension of two Mexican Nationals.

Narcotic agents later learned that teams of illegal aliens were rotating in to these growing fields on a monthly basis. Most important to note, the agents found numerous "keep out" signs which contained bullet holes and written warnings:

["YOU are in RANGE"](#)

Mr. Darrell Weaver, Director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics recently commented on this resurgence of cultivated marijuana saying these fields are directly linked to the Mexican drug cartels.

Cultivated marijuana is BACK and DANGEROUS!!



DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA

The Drug Demand Reduction team is one of the most powerful assets in the “War on Drugs” in Oklahoma.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration, every dollar spent on prevention saves taxpayers \$18 in the cost of treatment and clean up.

The Oklahoma National Guard Drug Demand Reduction team is made up of specialized military instructors and speakers that are dedicated to changing the knowledge, attitude and intent of our state’s youth toward illegal drug use. Their services are free and can be utilized by any school or community-based organization.



The team serves the people of Oklahoma and thus will travel anywhere in the state to assist in the prevention of illegal drug use. The program had one of its best years ever in 2009. The team reached out and impacted more than **19,000 Oklahomans**.

The Drug Demand Reduction Team is making a difference in [Oklahoma!!](#)

2009 Statistics

Drug Demand Reduction Significant Accomplishments

OKLAHOMANS REACHED

Elementary School Students	7120
Middle School Students	5258
High School Students	3814
College Students	416
Adults	3040

The team conducted 202 events and spent more than 680 hours on drug education

SHADY POINT TAKES THE LEAD



On October 2nd, students at Shady Point Middle School in Shady Point, Okla., participated in a Stay on Track kick off event. A local family of stock car drivers donated their vehicles as a display to get the students excited and ready to “Stay

on Track”. The family also donated tickets to an upcoming racing event.

Spc. Nicholas Coleman, Staff Sgt. Tommy Lapalio and 2nd Lt. Keck worked with the teachers to create a positive learning environment. Students and teachers decorated the school utilizing the race car theme. Every classroom used racing inspired decor to enhance the appearance of the entryways. A local Boy Scout troop even donated wooden race cars. Each student will receive a car and race it at the end of the year.

The ultimate experience occurred when the students went outside and challenged themselves by climbing the Counterdrug rock wall. Then

each student wore the fatal vision goggles and attempted the football toss. The goggles show the students the impact of alcohol impairment to normal functioning. The entire school praised the Drug Demand Reduction team.

The DDR team is pleased to offer the “Stay on Track” program FREE to any Oklahoma School.



COUNTERDRUG SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 MARK MONTGOMERY

In April, the Counterdrug Task Force recognized one of its top performers. The task force consists of numerous dedicated Soldiers and Airman from the Oklahoma National Guard. One of the Soldiers has risen above the call of duty and has been selected by his peers as the Counterdrug Soldier of the year; that Soldier is Chief Warrant Officer Mark Montgomery.

Mr. Montgomery serves part time as a Maintenance Test Pilot in the 1-114th Security and Support Aviation Company. His full time duty is the Commander of the Counterdrug Aviation Unit where he has been full time since 1994.

Montgomery has served as one of the most resourceful Counterdrug pilots in the National Guard. For the past 15 years, he has excelled in a number of key staff positions. He has been an aviation life support officer, supply officer, awards officer, and maintenance test pilot. Montgomery has received accolades from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Norman Police Department and is highly respected by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.

Montgomery is an honor graduate of the United States Army Aviation Flight School. He has attended numerous professional courses and holds more than four military occupational specialties. He is a graduate of the Warrant Officer Staff Course and has also completed the High Altitude Training Class. Montgomery is a Master Army Aviator with more than 4,000 safe rotary wing hours in some of the most demanding flight conditions.

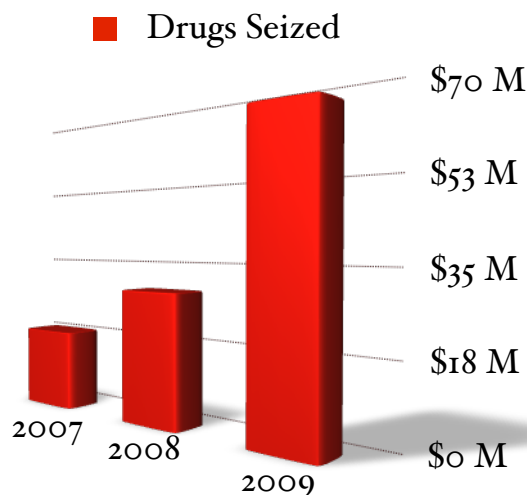
Montgomery is well respected in the aviation maintenance community. His leadership and management skills are unsurpassed. All crew chiefs have come to admire his professional approach toward aircraft maintenance. He continues to empower the best out of people. He takes special interest in everyone's position and listens to all concerns. His mission first & safety always approach has enabled the OH-58



Above: Major General Deering and Lieutenant Colonel Tackett present Chief Warrant Officer Mark Montgomery with the Meritorious Service Medal

community to safely fly a record breaking 1,300 flight hours on only four aircraft. He has been nominated for the prestigious Clay Clarkson Maintenance award.

In April, Maj. Gen. Myles L. Deering, the adjutant general for Oklahoma, awarded Chief Montgomery the Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional service to Oklahoma and the Counterdrug Task Force. His direct leadership enabled the Counterdrug Task Force to have one of the greatest years on record. The proof is in the seizure data.



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